

## BETWEEN TRAINS

By FANNIE HEASLIP LEA

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The 6:30 express stopped at Rockland, and two solitary passengers alighted. A man, tall, lean and dark, left the third coach; a woman, small, plump, and fair, descended from the second. Midway in their listless course to a somewhat ancient carryall they met.

"Oh! I might have known it!" she cried. "I have met you before."

The man said nothing at all. "I suppose," said the woman, with ostentatious self-control, "you are going to the Ralston's?"

"I am."

"And have I got to go up in that trap with you?"

"You have not. I shall walk," he said calmly.

"You will do nothing of the kind," she stormed. "And have them wondering and questioning? You will go up in the trap with me."

He led the way to the aged vehicle and she followed. When they were seated and a series of noisy jerks announced their triumphant progress, he looked at her with quiet amusement.

"They will think we have come together," he said. "Do they know you are coming?"

"No," she snapped. "And I suppose you are surprising them too?"

"Quite a surprise party," he agreed. She clutched her little hands furiously.

"They will understand that it was an accident that I met you at the depot."

"They will think you have at last consented to be sensible," he mused. "And will be delighted. You know how long and ardently they have tried to throw us together."

"Us?" said the woman witheringly. "You have been fairly thrown at my head."

"Well, I never seemed to strike you," he drawled.

She flung him a scorching glance, and he subsided into silence.

When the white pillars of the Ralston's splendid old plantation house came into view, she turned on him fiercely.

"For the next two days—I suppose I must stay so long—you will be given any number of chances to talk to me."

"I'm not going to propose again," he said disinterestedly. "Don't be so worried."

"Don't talk to me," she ordered. "Don't come near me unless you have to."

"I never do," he protested, climbing out over the dusty wheel of her chariot.

Five minutes after he climbed in again after a frenzied recalling of the chariot and seated himself beside a well high speechless companion. The carryall jolted an unhappy yard or two.

"You all gwine tek de 7:30 train back?" inquired the ancient driver. "He-he-he—if sho' em too bad. Nobody home, an' you all dun cum all de way up fum New Leans?"

"Whip up that beast of yours, uncle," ent in the man sharply. "There's a train at 7:30, isn't there?"

"Yes, sah."

"That's all right then. Now hurry up." He turned to the tense little figure, beside him, snapping open his watch.

"It's now ten minutes to 7," he announced. "It won't be long to wait, I dare say."

She surveyed him intently and without favor. "That train is never on time," she said.

He shrugged his shoulders in silence, and they jolted on till the ugly station came into view.

All around the southern twilight was deepening. A star or two winked out in the purple dusk of the sky, and down the long dusty road the katydids disputed noisily.

No one was in sight on the station platform, and only the sudden rattle of a telegraph instrument from the station itself gave any sign of habitation.

"You had better get out and wait on the platform," Mrs. Leonard said to the man.

"Thank you, Mr. Stanley," said the woman, and followed him stiffly when he had helped her from the carryall.

Stanley sat down upon a truck and whistled softly to himself. Mrs. Leonard paced the farthest end of the platform in superb silence. After a little he joined her with a laugh.

"Apparently," he said, "we're the only human beings in this solitude. I see the station agent making off down the road to get a drink before train time. There's a bit of a store a few hundred yards off. I suppose you noticed it."

"I did not," she said frigidly.

"Interesting things these plantation stores," he began again.

"I have never found them so." She smoothed an imaginary wrinkle from her glove.

"Now, see here," said Stanley, "would you mind telling me just why you're being snubbed and cut and frozen this way? I've said I wasn't going to propose to you again. What are you afraid of?"

"Afraid?" she mocked. "I'm not afraid. I'm tired, that's all, of being persecuted. Every one thinks I ought to marry you." Her voice began to tremble.

"You think so, too, and the fact that I don't agree with them nor you makes no difference at all. You imply go on waiting in that mad-dog-dog certain way, as if you had only bide your time and I'd give it. Well, why should I? I'm happy as I am. I've my friends and my amusements."

Who are you that I should give them up for you?"

"Nobody," said the man meekly. "Nobody at all."

"I can't even go out of town for a day or two," she cried body, "without being forced into a lonesome tete-a-tete with you. I'm tired of having chances made for you to see me, tired of having people get out of the way for us."

She broke off with an unwilling little laugh. Even fate sends the Ralston's to town and throws us together here, with no likelihood of possibility of an interruption."

"The station agent has come back," drawled Stanley, "so we're not quite alone. I think, if you don't mind"—he glanced at her with the absent air—"I'll let him take him if the train's on time. I saw him come up the road and is through the back door of the station a minute ago. You don't mind?"

"No," she said sweetly. "I don't mind."

She sat down on the edge of the platform when he had left her and swung her feet in idle discontent.

It was very lonely. She always had had a horror of katydids, and the tribe in the trees about her exhaled in strength. She began to be faintly sorry that she had let Stanley go. At least she could quarrel with him, and anything was better than this awesome silence.

Suddenly there was a noise from the little station, a hoarse cry, and then the sound of a heavy fall. Mrs. Leonard sprang to her feet, every nerve strung tight.

"Aleck!" she screamed. "Where are you, Aleck?" She fled across the platform and into the little station house. There was no one in the first room and only the murky light of a kerosene lamp.

She crossed, trembling with fright, her breath coming in gasps, to the second room and stumbled over a dark body by the door. It groaned and muttered her name.

Mrs. Leonard crept back to the lamp, lifted it from the wall with shaking fingers and carried it to the door. Its light fell dimly upon a man, who, drawing himself erect, leaned against the wall and smiled weakly at her.

"I'm afraid I frightened you," he said, "but it's all right. There was a tramp—we clatched."

"Oh, don't talk—please don't talk!" she begged tearfully, setting the lamp down on a convenient chair. "Are you hurt—much?"

"And he got away," Stanley finished, his voice growing stronger. "Knocked me silly for a minute. I'll be all right now."

"Oh, are you sure you're not hurt?" Mrs. Leonard cried brokenly. She laid her hand on his arm and stared up at him with wet eyes.

"Don't do that," he warned her. "You'll make me propose again."

Mrs. Leonard wept softly against his coat sleeves. "I wish you would," she sobbed.

"Now, heaven bless that tramp!" Stanley murmured to himself, with a wicked smile. "It was a heaven sent inspiration!"

Let a Double Life.

Officer Martin, who had been on the "force" for six months or more, was different in some respects from many of his fellow policemen. He never went into a saloon except in the performance of his regular duty; never swore, never idled away any time, and never shirked.

Because of these differences and because he was uncommunicative and was not in the usual sense of the term a "good fellow," a suspicion that all was not right and that he had something to conceal became aroused, and at last reached the chief of police, who determined to interrogate him.

Accordingly the chief called him into his private office one morning.

"Officer Martin," he said, "so far as I know, you are one of the best men on the payroll, but there are some things that you are not altogether honest in, and that there is something about you."

"I can't deny it, sir," responded the policeman, somewhat surprised, but not at all abashed.

"You confess it then?"

"Yes, sir."

"Would you mind telling me what it is in confidence?"

"Not at all, sir," said Officer Martin. "I sing in a suburban church choir on Sunday."—"You're a Companion."

Anthony Trollope as a Schoolboy.

Sir William Gregory gave a picture of Anthony Trollope at Harrow school that makes it evident why he was so unhappy while there. "He was a big boy," says Sir William, "older than the rest of the form and without exception the most slovenly and dirty boy I ever met. He was not only slovenly in person and in dress, but his work was equally dirty. His exercises were a mass of blot and smudges. These peculiarities created a great prejudice against him, and the poor fellow was generally avoided. It is pitiable to read his autobiography, how bitter were his feelings at that time, and how he longed for the friendship and companionship of his comrades, but in vain. I had plenty of opportunities of judging of Anthony, and I am bound to say, though my heart smites me sorely for his unkindness, that I did not dislike him. I avoided him, for he was rude and uncouth, but I thought him an honest brave fellow. He was no sneak. His faults were external. All the rest of him was right enough. He might have been a thoroughly bad young fellow and yet have had plenty of associates. He gave no sign of promise whatsoever, was always in the lowest part of the form and was regarded by masters and boys as an incorrigible dunce."

## FROM BIRTH TO OLD AGE

Life is a constant fight against the dangers of disease, and he holds his own the best who keeps his body and its functions in the best working trim.

There are times in every life when Nature gratefully accepts a little rest, and the body does not want a whipping up for that it has lately followed.

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It must not be an alcohol stimulant, just a vegetable tonic. Moving these needs and conditions Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has been in successful use these forty years and has accumulated a record of cures unsurpassed in the history of medicine.

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